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Province of l'Hermitage

III Provincial Chapter



The house of Notre-Dame de l'Hermitage (France) hosted the 56 participants in the III Provincial Chapter, 49 Brothers and 7 lay people. It was this provincial gesture that was desired for the inauguration of the renovated house after the work done during these last months. One of the purposes of the Provincial Chapter is to mark the entry into office of a new provincial, in this case Brother Maurice Berquet, who was part of the General Council for eight years. Brother Maurice replaced Brother Xavier Barceló, first Provincial of the Hermitage Province since 2003.

Brother Emili Turú, Superior General, thanked Brother Xavier for his dedication, underlining his availability and simplicity, and also Brother André Déculty for his excellent team work with Brother Xavier in the animation of the Province. Of the new Provincial, Brother Maurice Berquet, he laid stress on his experience from having

previously been Provincial and, moreover, General Councillor. He also emphasized the availability of Brother Maurice to lead the Province towards « a new land with joy and a spirit of service ».

Among the participants at the meeting there were the outgoing Brother Provincial, the incoming Brother Provincial, the outgoing Provincial Council and 40 Brothers elected by the Province. Seven lay people were also invited to take part in the Chapter: Yannis Costas, from our establishments in Greece ; Maryvonne Donnart, involved in the Fraternity of Lagny, Michèle Ragni, directress of the school of Chazelles, and Mari-France Stefanelli, a lay woman from the combined community La Valla-Mulhouse ; Joan Dalmau, president of the Marist Scouts Centre; Cecilia Beltrán, of the Co-ordinating Committee of Marist Laity and teacher in the « Maristas Valldemia » school, and Rogelio González, director of the « Maristas Champagnat »

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school of Badalona.

The Chapter programme was carefully prepared by a commission. The communities made contributions through two methods of dialogue. The participants in the chapter meeting, Brothers and laity, had received different documents, among them the evaluation of the term, drawn up by the outgoing Council, and the report of the Provincial Commissions.

The Chapter consecrated a large part of the meeting to reaching common agreement on the future directions and the priorities of the Province. It drew up a series of guidelines concerning the consecrated life, Brothers and lay people and the mission, for the attention of the Provincial Council, so that they could apply them during the coming term. The axis of consecrated life is aimed at forming a community of consecrated men inspired by a woman,

Mary, the Mother of Jesus, to offer to our world a Marial face of the Church. Certain elements insist on the developing of personal formation, personal and community accompaniment, and fraternal dialogue in community. The Brothers and laity axis wishes to take up the challenge of the XXI General Chapter – to advance together, Brothers and laity – and set in motion a procedure of joint formation based on the document « Around the same table », where Notre-Dame de l’Hermitage or Les Avellanes could be the points of reference. The axis of mission is centred on an evangelising presence among children and young people, especially the poorest, to develop together, Brothers and laity, according to the spirit of the Mission Assembly and the General Chapter, by means of the strategic plan and the echo in the community projects.

At the end of the work programmed,

the Chapter elected the eight Brothers who form the governing Council around Brother Maurice Berquet : Miquel Cubeles, André Déculty, Jean-Pierre Destombes, Pere Ferré, Xavi Giné, Jaume Parés, Jean Ronzon and Gabriel Villa-Real.

One particular highlight was the Eucharist of 7 April, when the new international community of the Hermitage, formed of Brothers and lay people from different parts of the world, was entrusted with its special mission.

The refashioning of the Hermitage overlaps the tradition of a house built by the founder himself in the XIX century and the stake in the future in harmony with the XXI century. Tradition and modernity in a constructive balance, there is a challenge for this new three year term: roots of the charism and future horizons.



Interprovincial novitiate of Cochabamba

Bolivia



On 19 March, feast of St Joseph, Patron of the Institute, we celebrated our entry into the Interprovincial Novitiate in the city of Cochabamba (Bolivia): Mario, Miguel, Carlos (Paraguay), Jhonattan (Bolivia) and Marlon (Peru). In an atmosphere of simplicity and fraternity, we had the joy of experiencing this moment so important and significant for our lives.

We share with you our feelings and hopes in beginning Marist religious life in hand with Mary and Marcellin. We are convinced that the road we are taking alone is at the same time united to you all; that is why we commend ourselves to your prayers to be able to continue resolutely in the following of Jesus of Nazareth.

Pre-novitiate

On 6 March, four young men coming from Paraguay, Argentina and Chile entered the pre-novitiate of Cochabamba.

After our first steps in formation in our countries of origin, we have decided to follow the road of Marist formation and enter the pre-novi-

tiate. We hope to live for several months an experience of integration, orientation and discernment before the Novitiate.

With joy in our hearts, we have commenced this new step, confident that Mary will be our faithful companion on the way, the way that is Jesus. We share our joy with you, counting on your prayers and company, in this process of following Jesus in the style of Champagnat.

We are grateful for the presence and participation of Brother Antonio Peralta, of the Marist community of Ticti Norte and of Yhonattan’s family.



Province of Sydney

Brother Jeffrey Crowe's second mandate as Provincial of the Province of Sydney

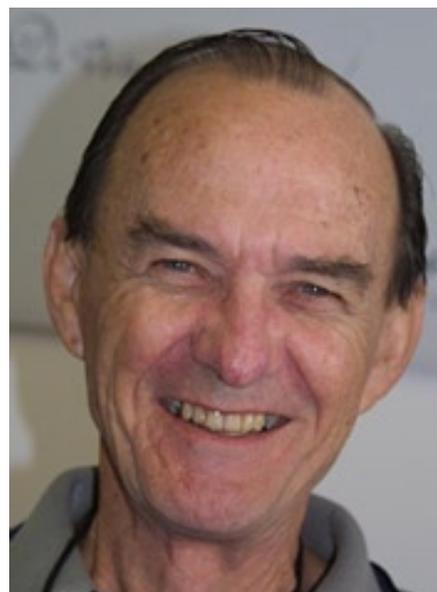
Brother Superior General and his Council, in their ordinary session of 16 March 2010, have appointed Brother Jeffrey Crowe as Provincial of Sydney for a second three year term, starting on 19 December 2010.

In the letter to the Brothers of the Province to communicate this news, Brother Superior General emphasised that the acceptance of this responsibility was « at once an act of generosity and of faith. » The Brothers, through the preliminary consultation, continued Brother Emili, showed that they « appreciate the leadership qualities Brother Jeffrey brings to the Province ». And he also expressed his satisfaction « for the commitment in the Province » to respond to the calls

of the General Chapter.

Among the objectives of the Provincial Plan Brother Jeffrey will have to pay particular attention to, we mention the following: a renewed sense of consecration firmly rooted in the Gospel, which inspires a search for new ways of being brother; a new relationship between Brothers and laity based on the common search for a greater vitality of the Marist charism; a very significant presence among poor children, and lastly, an international mentality in all that is achieved by the Province.

Brother Superior General closed his letter by congratulating Brother Jeffrey on his constant personal work, as well as that of the Brothers of the



Province, with the Marist laity.



Marists for Haiti

UMBRASIL - Marist Union of Brasil



The Marist Union of Brasil (Umbrasil) is in train of promoting a fund-raising campaign to help the victims of the earthquake which devastated Haiti last February. It is launching the Marist Campaign for Haiti for this purpose.

According to Umbrasil's executive secretary, Brother João Carlos do Prado, this

campaign wishes to contribute to a national mobilisation in supporting humanitarian projects, principally those which propose to provide help for children and Haitian youth, especially orphans.

As a first step, the campaign aims to obtain financial support, then it will offer aid and a helping hand for the recon-

struction of the country; later, according to Brother João Carlos, the campaign will endeavour to mobilise the public of the organisations of Marist Brasil, while keeping the Marist character of action in solidarity.

Umbrasil is acting as such as partner of « Cáritas Brasileira » which has opened a current account exclusively for the Marist mobilisation. The Campaign also counts on the support of the National Bishops Conference of Brasil (CNBB), the Marist International Solidarity Foundation (FMSI) and the Conference of Religious of Brasil (CRB).



Marist mission in the Amazon

Important meeting for the Marist District of Amazon

During Holy Week, the annual meeting of the Community Superiors with the District Council took place in Porto Velho – Rondônia – the District headquarters. This year’s meeting was especially significant in that there were the three Provincials of the Provinces of Brasil - Brothers Inácio Etges (RGS), Davide Pedri (BCS) and Wellington Medeiros (BCN) – Brother Antonio Ramalho, Councillor General, and several members of Umbrasil (Marist Union of Brasil). Three subjects were discussed: sharing community life projects, exchanging information and drawing up the Strategic Plan for the District. The latter took up most of the time. It was co-ordinated by the Umbrasil team, directed by Brother João Carlos do Prado.

Using a very participative methodology, the brothers were able to touch on the elements of Marist presence in the region, the great pastoral challenges and the life style envisaged and desired for the District. Currently, we have 28 brothers in nine communities, in four of the five states under the District’s jurisdiction: Acre, Amazonas, Rondônia and Roraima.

During this week of intense work, we outlined a plan of action with the year 2017 in view, the same historic framework the Institute has given it-



self. We hope to reinforce our simple life style as well as the pastoral ministry inserted in the bases of the local churches, achieve financial autonomy, reinforce initial formation, encourage the communities to stay as welcoming spaces for the young, promote a climate of formation and intense life of brotherhood.

Forming part of the Amazonian situation, we questioned ourselves about our participation in the preservation of the environment, about a plain life style, an education and a formation oriented towards awakening life. At present, some large government projects threaten immense tracts of the

Amazon. Those living near the great rivers, the indigenous communities, the small farmers, are all questioning the meaning of these projects. Numerous prophetic leaders of the Church are engaged in the struggle for the life of the inhabitants of Amazonia and of the Amazonian biome. We ask ourselves in our turn how we can be Marist life bearers in our pedagogic, pastoral and social work.

The work of this Holy Week will help us to be more united among ourselves, with the Provinces and with Umbrasil.

H. Sebastião Ferrarini
 Superior de Distrito.

